

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

*In 2016, the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a significant advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Government adopted a revision to the Labor Code that raised the minimum age of work to 18 and launched a Human Development Systems Strengthening Project that aims to increase access to birth registration and improve school infrastructure. As part of its Child Soldiers Action Plan, the Joint Technical Working Group established new committees in Tanganyika and North Kivu and validated standard operating procedures for age verification in military recruitment. The Government also worked with the UN to investigate individuals accused of forcibly recruiting children and initiated plans for making reparations to former child soldiers. However, children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in the forced mining of gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite), and are used in armed conflict, sometimes as a result of forcible recruitment or abduction by non-state armed groups. A lack of trained personnel, resources, and poor coordination hampered the Government's efforts to combat child labor, and laws mandating free primary education are not enforced.*



## I. PREVALENCE AND SECTORAL DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD LABOR

Children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) engage in the worst forms of child labor, including in the mining of gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite), and are used in armed conflict, sometimes as a result of forcible recruitment or abduction by non-state armed groups.(1-5) Table 1 provides key indicators on children's work and education in the DRC.

**Table 1. Statistics on Children's Work and Education**

Children	Age	Percent
Working (% and population)	5 to 14	35.8
Attending School (%)	5 to 14	77.3
Combining Work and School (%)	7 to 14	37.1
Primary Completion Rate (%)		66.8

Source for primary completion rate: Data from 2013, published by UNESCO Institute for Statistics, 2016.(6)

Source for all other data: Understanding Children's Work Project's analysis of statistics from Demographic and Health Survey, 2013–2014.(7)

Based on a review of available information, Table 2 provides an overview of children's work by sector and activity.

**Table 2. Overview of Children's Work by Sector and Activity**

Sector/Industry	Activity
Agriculture	Farming, including tilling fields, planting seeds, watering crops, carrying heavy loads,† weeding, harvesting crops, and use of chemical products and machetes in the production of coffee, peanuts, tea, quinine, eggplant, manioc, sweet potatoes, leafy greens, corn, beans, rice, cassava leaves, and other vegetables (3, 8-13)
	Fishing, including maintaining fishing tools, baiting hooks, transporting heavy loads, the use of explosives, and salting, smoking, and packaging fish (8, 9, 13)
	Herding and raising livestock such as chickens, goats, and pigs, including cleaning cages or stalls, disposing of waste, and feeding animals (9, 12-14)
	Hunting (8, 12)

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

**Table 2. Overview of Children’s Work by Sector and Activity (cont)**

Sector/Industry	Activity
Industry	Mining, <sup>†</sup> including sifting, cleaning, washing, sorting, working underground, <sup>†</sup> transporting, carrying heavy loads, <sup>†</sup> use of mercury and explosives, and digging in the production of diamonds, copper, cobalt ore (heterogenite), gold, tin ore (cassiterite), tantalum ore (coltan), and tungsten ore (wolframite) (1-3, 8, 9, 15-23)
	Working as auto mechanics, on construction sites, and in carpentry workshops, craft workshops, and road construction (8)
	Working in quarries, <sup>†</sup> including breaking stone into gravel (15)
Services	Domestic work (8, 14, 24)
	Driving motorcycle taxis (10)
	Street work, including vending, garbage scavenging, carrying packages, unloading or parking vehicles, and washing cars (8, 9, 14, 21, 25, 26)
Categorical Worst Forms of Child Labor <sup>‡</sup>	Forced mining of gold, cassiterite, coltan, and wolframite, sometimes as a result of debt bondage (1, 4, 27, 28)
	Forced domestic work and commercial sexual exploitation, each sometimes as a result of trafficking (1, 4, 8, 9, 15, 17, 18, 20, 25, 29-31)
	Use in illicit activities, including for spying, stealing, carrying stolen goods, smuggling minerals, and distributing drugs (4, 18, 32-34)
	Forced recruitment of children by non-state armed groups for use in armed conflict, including as bodyguards, messengers, porters, domestic workers, spies, check point monitors, looters, and concubines (4, 29, 35-39)

<sup>†</sup> Determined by national law or regulation as hazardous and, as such, relevant to Article 3(d) of ILO C. 182.

<sup>‡</sup> Child labor understood as the worst forms of child labor *per se* under Article 3(a)–(c) of ILO C. 182.



In 2016, members of indigenous and foreign non-state armed groups—including the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), *Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), *Nduma Défense du Congo* (NDC/Cheka), *Force de Résistance Patriotique en Ituri* (FRPI), Mayi Mayi groups, and other armed groups—continued to abduct and recruit children to be used in their units.(37-41) Some victims of child trafficking were recruited at refugee camps in neighboring countries and transported through DRC to participate in armed conflict.(27) Child labor in artisanal mining is prevalent in the provinces of Katanga, Eastern and Western Kasai, North and South Kivu, and Orientale, and the commercial sexual exploitation of girls and sometimes boys is prevalent around mining sites.(2, 4, 14) However, a comprehensive, standalone, child labor survey has never been conducted in the DRC.(13, 42)

Although the Government has mandated free primary education, these laws were not implemented throughout the country and some families are required to pay for school uniforms, tuition, and additional fees, which may be prohibitive.(2, 8, 9, 13, 19, 21, 25, 40, 43-45) Many schools throughout the DRC are oversubscribed, understaffed, poorly maintained, or require students to travel long distances.(2, 8, 12, 45, 46) Schools in eastern DRC may be closed due to the conflict, or occupied by armed groups or internally displaced persons.(5, 8, 29, 37, 39-41, 47) There are also reports that children may be forcibly recruited or sexually abused on their way to school or subject to physical or sexual abuse at school.(27, 29, 40, 47) Children may sometimes join armed groups or engage in child labor in artisanal mines hoping to earn money, and internally displaced children often have difficulty accessing education.(2, 9, 15, 17, 19, 22, 46, 48) Low rates of birth registration leave many children vulnerable to child labor.(9, 40, 46, 49)


## II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The DRC has ratified all key international conventions concerning child labor (Table 3).

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor**

Convention	Ratification
 ILO C. 138, Minimum Age	✓
ILO C. 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor	✓
 UN CRC	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on Armed Conflict	✓
UN CRC Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography	✓

**Table 3. Ratification of International Conventions on Child Labor (cont)**

Convention	Ratification
 Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons	✓

The Government has established laws and regulations related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 4). However, gaps exist in the DRC's legal framework to adequately protect children from child labor.

**Table 4. Laws and Regulations on Child Labor**

Standard	Meets International Standards: Yes/No	Age	Legislation
Minimum Age for Work	Yes	18	Article 6.3 of the Labor Code; Article 50 of the Child Protection Code (50-52)
Minimum Age for Hazardous Work	Yes	18	Article 10 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (53)
Identification of Hazardous Occupations or Activities Prohibited for Children	Yes		Articles 28-35 of Decree on Working Conditions for Women and Children; Articles 10-15 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work; Articles 23 and 26 of the Mining Code; Article 8b of the Decree on Validation Procedures for Artisanal Mines; Article 125 of the Labor Code (52-56)
Prohibition of Forced Labor	Yes		Articles 2 and 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53 and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Articles 16 and 61 of the Constitution; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (44, 50, 51, 53)
Prohibition of Child Trafficking	Yes		Article 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53 and 162 of the Child Protection Code; Article 174j of the Penal Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (50, 51, 53, 57)
Prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children	Yes		Article 3 of the Labor Code; Articles 53, 61, 169, 173, 179-180, 182, 183, and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Article 174 b, 174 j, 174 m, and 174 n of the Penal Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work (50, 51, 53, 57)
Prohibition of Using Children in Illicit Activities	Yes		Article 3 of the Labor Code; Article 8 of the Decree Establishing the Conditions for Children's Work; Articles 53 and 187 of the Child Protection Code (50, 51, 53)
Minimum Age for Military Recruitment			
State Compulsory	Yes*	18	Article 7 of the Law on Armed Forces; Article 27 of the Law on the Military Status of the Congolese Armed Forces; Articles 53 and 187 of the Child Protection Code (50, 58, 59)
State Voluntary	Yes	18	Article 27 of the Law on Armed Forces; Articles 53, 71, and 187 of the Child Protection Code (50, 58)
Non-State Compulsory	Yes	18	Articles 53 and 187 of the Child Protection Code; Article 190 of the Constitution (44, 50, 58)
Compulsory Education Age	No	12 <sup>‡</sup>	Articles 7.21, 12, and 72 of the Law on National Education; Article 43 of the Constitution (44, 60)
Free Public Education	Yes		Article 43 of the Constitution; Article 38 of the Child Protection Code; Articles 12 and 72 of the Law on National Education (44, 50, 60)

\* No conscription (3)

‡ Age calculated based on available information (43, 50, 60)

In July 2016, the Government adopted revisions to the Labor Code that raise the minimum working age to 18, prohibit children from working at night in either public or private enterprises, and permit children ages 16 and 17 to engage in light work as determined by the Ministry of Labor. However, the fine for violating the minimum age law is \$16, and penalties for forced child labor are not commensurate with penalties imposed for other worst forms of child labor.(50, 52) Other laws awaiting adoption include a law to establish specialized mixed chambers to try war crimes, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers; the implementing decree for the Child Protection Code; and a Mining Code revision that punishes forced child labor on mining sites.(20, 29, 31, 61-63)

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

### III. ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established institutional mechanisms for the enforcement of laws and regulations on child labor, including its worst forms (Table 5). However, gaps in labor law and criminal law enforcement remain and some enforcement information is not available.

**Table 5. Agencies Responsible for Child Labor Law Enforcement**

Organization/Agency	Role
Ministry of Employment, Labor, and Social Welfare (MOL)	Investigate cases related to child labor, including its worst forms.(9, 40) Refer cases of child labor to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MOJ) for prosecution.(64)
Ministry of Justice and Human Rights (MOJ)	Enforce criminal laws related to child labor.(9, 27) Oversee four juvenile courts in Kinshasa, 18 UNICEF-funded child protection courts throughout the country, and assist the International Criminal Court in conducting investigations and prosecutions against individuals who allegedly used children in armed conflict.(64, 65)
Ministry of the Interior	Through its Congolese National Police Unit for the Protection of Women and Children, enforce laws related to the worst forms of child labor.(62, 66) Through its Police for Child Protection and Combating Sexual Violence (PEVS), combat conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence against women and children, protect children and women who are victims of physical abuse, and ensure demobilization of children. MOI refers all cases to the MOJ for prosecution, and assists victims in seeking justice.(62, 65, 67-70)
Ministry of Gender, Children, and Family (MOGCF)	Oversee and investigate cases related to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.(9, 27)
Ministry of Social Affairs, Solidarity, and Humanitarian Action (MINASA)	Monitor humanitarian programs and coordinate with UNICEF, USAID, and NGOs to provide social services to vulnerable groups, including street children, trafficking victims, and child soldiers.(27, 71, 72)
Ministry of Defense (MOD)	Investigate and use military courts to prosecute military officials suspected of recruitment and use of child soldiers or forced labor of civilians. Lead the implementation of the Child Soldiers Action Plan.(27, 49) Through its Department of Child Protection (DISPE), coordinate actions with UNICEF.(66)

#### *Labor Law Enforcement*

In 2016, labor law enforcement agencies in the DRC took actions to combat child labor, including its worst forms (Table 6).

**Table 6. Labor Law Enforcement Efforts Related to Child Labor**

Overview of Labor Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Labor Inspectorate Funding	Unknown* (73)	\$0 (3, 40)
Number of Labor Inspectors	243 (70)	200 (3)
Inspectorate Authorized to Assess Penalties	No (51)	Unknown (3, 51)
Training for Labor Inspectors		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown	Unknown* (3)
Training on New Laws Related to Child Labor	N/A	No (3)
Refresher Courses Provided	No (49, 70)	No (3)
Number of Labor Inspections	Unknown	0 (3, 40)
Number Conducted at Worksite	Unknown	N/A
Number Conducted by Desk Reviews	Unknown	N/A
Number of Child Labor Violations Found	Unknown (49)	0 (3)
Number of Child Labor Violations for Which Penalties Were Imposed	Unknown	N/A
Number of Child Penalties Imposed that Were Collected	Unknown	N/A
Routine Inspections Conducted	Unknown	No (3)
Routine Inspections Targeted	Unknown	N/A
Unannounced Inspections Permitted	Yes (51)	Yes (3)
Unannounced Inspections Conducted	Unknown	No (3)
Complaint Mechanism Exists	Unknown	Yes (3)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Labor Authorities and Social Services	Yes (70)	Yes (3)

\* The Government does not publish this information.

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

The number of labor inspectors is insufficient for the size of DRC's workforce, which includes over 3.1 million workers.(74) According to the ILO's recommendation of 1 inspector for every 40,000 workers in less developed economies, the DRC should employ 777 inspectors.(74-76) The Inspector General has requested the permission and resources to hire new inspectors for the past three years without success, and acknowledges inadequate human and financial resources hinder the inspectorate's ability to conduct investigations throughout the country.(3, 4, 21, 70) In addition, research found conflicting information on whether inspectors are authorized to assess penalties.(3, 51)

By the end of 2016, Government officials, in cooperation with IOM and USAID, validated over 200 artisanal mines as free of child labor.(27, 65, 77, 78) However, labor laws are rarely enforced in the informal and artisanal mining sectors, where the majority of child labor is found.(9, 40) Although child labor violations may be reported to the Children's Court, research indicates this mechanism is not effective.(3)

### *Criminal Law Enforcement*

In 2016, criminal law enforcement agencies in the DRC took actions to combat the worst forms of child labor (Table 7).

**Table 7. Criminal Law Enforcement Efforts Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor**

Overview of Criminal Law Enforcement	2015	2016
Training for Investigators		
Initial Training for New Employees	Unknown (49)	No (3)
Training on New Laws Related to the Worst Forms of Child Labor	N/A	No (3)
Refresher Courses Provided	Yes (49)	Yes (27)
Number of Investigations	7 (35, 62)	0 (3)
Number of Violations Found	2,549 (41)	1,846(27)
Number of Prosecutions Initiated	1 (49)	Unknown (3)
Number of Convictions	1 (49)	0 (3)
Reciprocal Referral Mechanism Exists Between Criminal Authorities and Social Services	Yes (49)	Yes (3)

In 2016, the Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment began exploring a data collection project on forced prostitution and sexual slavery, including the use of girls as concubines.(27, 65) During the reporting period, the Government also significantly increased its prosecution efforts related to the worst forms of child labor, worked with the UN to investigate individuals accused of forcibly recruiting children, and initiated plans for making reparations to former child soldiers formerly associated with Thomas Lubanga, who was convicted in March 2012 for the forced recruitment of children in armed conflict.(27, 40, 79, 80) In addition, the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) engaged in military operations against armed groups that used child soldiers, which led to the surrender and escape of some children.(27) Research indicates that some law enforcement officials and members of the judiciary may lack the knowledge, capacity, or resources to investigate and prosecute child labor violations effectively.(27, 49) The justice system also lacks independence, funding, capacity, and legitimacy, which weakens its ability to enforce laws and prosecute violators.(27, 31, 35, 81)

There were reports that some children associated with armed groups were detained, held in cells with adults, interrogated, and beaten, despite the enactment of a 2012 directive that requires that all children separated from armed groups be immediately transferred to the UN.(4, 31, 40, 41, 48, 82-85) The UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and FARDC officials conducted a joint mission to a military prison in March 2016 and identified 22 children who had been unlawfully detained; they began working with the Government to have the children transferred.(83)

## IV. COORDINATION OF GOVERNMENT EFFORTS ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established mechanisms to coordinate its efforts to address child labor, including its worst forms (Table 8).

**Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor**

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
National Committee to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NCCL)	Oversee the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NAP) and build the capacity of partner organizations.(86-88) Led by the MOL and includes representatives from 12 other ministries, local NGOs, and civil society.(3, 71, 87, 88)

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

**Table 8. Key Mechanisms to Coordinate Government Efforts on Child Labor (cont)**

Coordinating Body	Role & Description
Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Commission (UEPN-DDR)	Led by the MOD, coordinate the identification, verification, and release of child soldiers by collaborating with the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), UNICEF, and NGOs.(27, 89) Through its Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups unit, coordinate the identification, verification, and release of children associated with armed groups and refer them to social service providers for family reunification and reinsertion.(3, 89)
Joint Technical Working Group (JTWG)	Coordinate implementation of the Child Soldiers Action Plan. Led by the MOGCF and includes representatives from four other ministries and the UN.(49) Through its Provincial JTWGs, coordinate implementation at the provincial level in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.(49, 81) In 2016, met regularly and established a new Provincial JTWG in Tanganyika and a sub-regional JTWG in North Kivu.(27)
Working Group on Trafficking in Persons*	Analyzes human trafficking trends and discuss strategies to lobby for comprehensive trafficking legislation and an interministerial coordinating body. Led by IOM and the U.S. Embassy; includes representatives from three ministries, civil society organizations, and other government officials.(27)

\* Mechanism to coordinate efforts to address child labor was created during the reporting period.

Rapid decentralization left some new leadership positions vacant without adequately trained staff to fill them. A lack of resources, trained personnel, poor coordination among relevant ministries, and competing priorities have impeded the Government's efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.(27, 49) Although the UEPN-DDR is meant to take the lead on child soldier issues, research indicates this did not always happen in practice.(27) The National Committee to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor did not carry out any activities in 2016 due to a lack of funding and a proposed committee to combat human trafficking remains stalled for the third consecutive year.(3, 27)

## V. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

The Government has established policies related to child labor, including its worst forms (Table 9).

**Table 9. Key Policies Related to Child Labor†**

Policy	Description
National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor (NAP) (2012–2020)	Developed by the NCCL in consultation with UNICEF to eliminate the worst forms of child labor in the DRC by 2020.(8, 90, 91) Promotes the enforcement of legislation on the worst forms of child labor; awareness raising and empowering communities to stop child labor practices; universal primary education; prevention and reintegration services; improved monitoring and evaluation efforts; and improved coordination of stakeholders.(8, 91)
Action Plan to End the Recruitment and Use of Child Soldiers (Child Soldiers Action Plan)	UN-backed plan which aims to prevent and end the use of children in armed forces, provide support and reintegration services, pursue accountability for perpetrators, and create a partnership framework for the UN and the Government.(92, 93) In April 2016, the JTWG, UNICEF, and MONUSCO validated standard operating procedures for age verification to help the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) avoid underage recruitment, which successfully prevented over 191 children from enlisting.(27, 38) In October 2016, hosted a conference with civil society and the military to evaluate implementation of the Child Soldiers Action Plan and create a roadmap for continued work through 2019.(27)
UEPN-DDR's National Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Plan (PNDDR) DDR III	Aims to significantly improve the security situation in Eastern Congo by eradicating armed groups and providing rehabilitation and reintegration services to 12,205 demobilized combatants, including children.(65, 94-96) Implemented with the support of the UN and international partners in support of the 2013 Framework Agreement for Peace, Security and Cooperation for the DRC and the Great Lakes Region.(95, 97, 98) Includes a 2013 directive that requires the immediate transfer of all demobilized or detained children to humanitarian organizations.(49) In 2016, cooperated fully and collaborated closely with the UN to identify and remove children from the FARDC, allowing frequent and often unfettered access to its bases.(27, 49, 85)
National Action Plan Against Sexual Violence in Conflict	MOGCF policy in support of UN resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security, that aims to combat sexual violence against girls as part of armed conflict and ensure prosecution of perpetrators.(99)

†The Government had other policies that may have an impact on child labor.(18, 31, 66, 100)

The Government has not integrated child labor elimination and prevention strategies into the UN Development Assistance Framework (2013–2017). The National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labor has been awaiting approval from the National Labor Council since 2015.(65)



## VI. SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS CHILD LABOR

In 2016, the Government funded and participated in programs that include the goal of eliminating or preventing child labor, including its worst forms (Table 10).

**Table 10. Key Social Programs to Address Child Labor**

Program	Description
World Bank-funded Projects	Projects in support of re-establishing peace and stability. Includes <u>Reinsertion and Reintegration Project (2015–2019)</u> , a \$21 million project that aims to assist with social reintegration for the child combatants identified as part of DDR III; <u>Support to Basic Education Program (2013–2017)</u> , a \$100 million project implemented by the Ministry of Primary, Secondary, and Vocational Education that aims to increase access to education; and the <u>Human Development Systems Strengthening (2016–2020)</u> ,* a \$41.1 million project which aims to increase birth registration and improve school infrastructure through an information management system.(46, 98, 101-105)
Program to Support Vulnerable Children	\$4 million Government of Japan-funded program that aims to provide education, vocational training, reintegration kits, and school feeding programs to 13,000 children and construct a training center for youth in North Kivu Province.(106)
Decent Work Country Program (2013–2016)	\$44.5 million ILO-implemented program to contribute to the consolidation of peace and reconstruction in the DRC by promoting social protection and decent work for youth, as well as ensuring that child protection agencies use the NAP.(107)

\* Program was launched during the reporting period.

The scope of existing child DDR programs is insufficient and tensions with FLDR ex-combatants impede successful implementation. In addition, the process is slow, collaboration between partners is weak, and reintegrated child soldiers remain vulnerable to re-recruitment and stigmatization.(27, 31, 33, 36, 48, 85, 108) Outreach campaigns targeting girls resulted in an increase in girls separated from armed groups, but more attention still needs to be given to girls in the DDR process; girls make up an estimated 30 to 40 percent of children associated with armed groups, but only 8 percent have been demobilized.(32, 42, 48, 82, 108-110) Research was unable to determine whether activities were undertaken to implement the Program to Support Vulnerable Children or the Decent Work Country Program (2013–2016) during the reporting period.(66) Research also indicates the Government needs to strengthen its efforts to assist street children, integrate child labor issues into existing agricultural programs, and implement programs specifically designed to assist children engaged in mining, forced labor in domestic work, and commercial sexual exploitation.(29-31)

## VII. SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOR

Based on the reporting above, suggested actions are identified that would advance the elimination of child labor, including its worst forms, in the DRC (Table 11).

**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Legal Framework	Establish by law a compulsory education age that extends to the minimum age for employment.	2013 – 2016
	Raise penalties for the use of underage child labor and forced or compulsory labor to be commensurate with other serious crimes.	2013 – 2016
	Issue appropriate decrees to ensure that enacted laws are implemented.	2013 – 2016
Enforcement	Implement existing laws, including those that provide for free education and require demobilized children to be handed over to child protection actors for social services and reintegration assistance. Cease the practice of beating children and/or detaining children with adults for engaging in the worst forms of child labor.	2009 – 2016
	Significantly increase the number of labor inspectors in accordance with the ILO recommendation and ensure that they receive adequate resources and training to carry out their duties throughout the country.	2011 – 2016
	Ensure that judges, prosecutors, and investigators are knowledgeable about child labor issues and can investigate and prosecute violations through the judiciary.	2011 – 2016
	Strengthen the labor inspectorate by authorizing inspectors to assess penalties, conducting routine and unannounced inspections, including in the informal sector, and ensuring a functional complaint mechanism.	2015 – 2016

# Congo, Democratic Republic of the

## SIGNIFICANT ADVANCEMENT

**Table 11. Suggested Government Actions to Eliminate Child Labor, Including its Worst Forms (cont)**

Area	Suggested Action	Year(s) Suggested
Enforcement	Publish information on enforcement data, including the number of prosecutions initiated.	2009 – 2016
Coordination	Improve coordination among relevant ministries and ensure that they receive adequate resources to combat the worst forms of child labor, including child trafficking.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that UEPN-DDR is able to coordinate the Government's DDR III program as intended.	2015 – 2016
	Ensure that the NCCL receives a dedicated budget and is able to carry out activities in support of its mandate.	2014 – 2016
Government Policies	Integrate child labor elimination and prevention strategies into existing policies.	2014 – 2016
	Ensure action plans to combat the worst forms of child labor have adequate resources and are fully implemented.	2011 – 2016
Social Programs	Conduct a standalone child labor survey.	2013 – 2016
	Improve access to education for all children, including those who are internally displaced, by eliminating school-related fees, regulating classroom size, training additional teachers, building additional schools, and ensuring that schools are safe and students are not subjected to sexual abuse while at school.	2012 – 2016
	Ensure that all children are registered at birth or have identification documents.	2012 – 2016
	Expand efforts to address the needs of demobilized children and integrate stigmatization, gender, and re-recruitment concerns into programs to reintegrate such children.	2009 – 2016
	Ensure existing social programs are implemented as intended and establish or expand efforts to address exploitative child labor.	2009 – 2016

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